

Typical specimens of *Garrulax galbanus* and *Suthora munipurensis*; presented by Major H. H. Godwin-Austen.

The type of *Horeites pallidipes* from Sikkim; presented by L. Mandelli, Esq.

Two collections of 246 specimens from N.W. Borneo; one made by H. Low, Esq., the other by Mr. A. Everett.

A series of 77 specimens collected by Dr. Steere in the Philippine Islands, by which 20 species were added to the British-Museum collection.

Six species new to the collection, and represented by 12 specimens from Taviuni, Fiji Islands; collected by E. L. Layard, Esq.

The type of *Casuarius westermanni*, and specimens of *C. picticollis* and *C. beccarii*; purchased of the Zoological Society.

A series of the lately described new species of Bird of Paradise (*Paradisea raggiana*); purchased.

A small collection from South-eastern New Guinea; purchased.

Specimens of *Paradigalla carunculata* from the Arfak Mountains, and of *Tanysiptera carolinæ* from Mafoor; obtained by exchange.

Thirteen specimens from the Galapagos Islands; collected by Commander W. E. Cookson.

XXVI.—Notes on a 'Catalogue of the Accipitres in the British Museum,' by R. Bowdler Sharpe (1874). By J. H. GURNEY.

[Continued from p. 236.]

THE next Eagle which I propose to consider is that figured in plate 29 of the late Dr. Gray's 'Illustrations of Indian Zoology' under the name of "*Aquila fulvescens*." The type of this species is, I believe, not now in existence; and Mr. Sharpe quotes "*fulvescens*" as a synonym of "*vindhiana*;" but, as already mentioned (*antea*, p. 225), I cannot agree with him in this view.

In 'The Ibis' for 1871, at p. 245, the late Dr. Jerdon stated

that he considered it "not improbable" that the figure of *Aquila fulvescens*, above referred to, represented the same North-west Indian Eagle which had then been recently (but, as was subsequently shown, erroneously) identified with *A. rapax*. Such I believe to be the fact; and I now agree with the view which was enunciated in 1873 by Mr. W. E. Brooks*, that this Eagle, which Dr. Jerdon correctly identified with Dr. Gray's *Aquila fulvescens*, is specifically distinct both from *A. rapax* and from *A. vindhiana*, and that *A. fulvescens* must be recognized as a good and valid species.

Of two specimens, one adult and the other immature, which Mr. Brooks sent to England in 1869, I saw, if my memory serves me correctly, the adult only; this specimen, which Mr. Brooks informs me is the only one in adult plumage which has been obtained since the rediscovery of the species, was sent back to India, where it now remains in the possession of Mr. Hume. I have therefore had no opportunity of reexamining it; but, through the obliging intervention of Mr. Brooks, I have recently had the loan of an immature male and female belonging to Mr. John Hancock; and I found them so very different from the immature stage of any other Eagle with which I am acquainted, that I could not hesitate to acknowledge them as quite distinct both from *A. rapax* and from *A. vindhiana*. Coupling this fact with that of the agreement of these specimens with the bird figured by Gray under the name of *Aquila fulvescens*, I cannot doubt that this name is rightly applicable to the present species, and is not, as has been supposed, a synonym of *A. vindhiana*.

Previously to the identification of this species with *A. fulvescens*, some interesting descriptive notes respecting it were contributed by Mr. Brooks to 'The Ibis' for 1868, p. 351, and for 1870, p. 290, and by Mr. Anderson to the P.Z.S. for 1871, p. 687. These notes may, I think, be appropriately supplemented by the following description of the adult specimen already referred to, for which I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Brooks:—

* *Vide* Proc. Asiatic Society of Bengal for November 1873, p. 173, and Ibis, 1874, p. 84.

“Female adult, shot near Cawnpore, 3rd February, 1869. The top of the head is a light reddish brown, of a foxy tinge, extending to the upper part of the back, but with the extreme tips of most of the feathers of a darker tone, and not so red as the body of the feather, giving the appearance of a small clouded spot or drop at the tip of the feather; the back and all the wing-coverts are dull brown, rather inclined to rufous, but with the edges of all the feathers a few shades paler; some of the new feathers on the upper part of the back have moderately dark-brown centres edged with rather bright reddish brown; from the carpal joint along the ridge of the wing to its junction with the body, the feathers are of a light rufous similar to the head, but centred with darker brown; the primaries are dark blackish brown and free from all bars, whether looked at from above or below; the secondaries are not so dark a brown, and are slightly glossed with purple; the tertials a still paler brown, and decidedly glossed with purple; the middle and lower part of the back exhibit a mixture of light tawny and pale brown, the tawny prevailing at the sides near the flanks, and the brown towards the centre of the back. The upper tail-coverts are brown at the centre and tawny at the sides, the middle coverts being brown, and the lateral ones tawny, the colours passing rather abruptly into each other; the lowest row of the upper tail-coverts, however, is white. The tail is brown, becoming much paler towards the tip; the basal portion of the shafts is pure white; on the inner webs of some of the feathers there are faint indications of bars, which are square to the shaft of the feather; these bars are only observable when the tail is closely examined, and do not appear on the central feathers. There is a narrow black supercilium; the sides of the head are dull rufous brown, the chin and throat the same, passing into light reddish or foxy brown over the rest of the lower surface with the exception of the terminal portion of the lower tail-coverts, which are more whitish with a mixture of pale tawny; the tarsus is not quite so dark and bright a rufous, but more inclined to light sandy reddish brown; the upper portion of the wing-lining is very rufous, especially at the bend and

ridge; lower down, towards the bases of the primaries, it changes into dusky brown; most of the feathers of the breast and upper abdomen are cloudily tipped with dull brown; and on the lower abdomen the centre of most of the feathers is clouded with brown throughout the entire length of the feather: these brown marks are seen when the bird is closely examined; otherwise the general tone of the lower surface at a little distance is tolerably bright rufous, and of a somewhat darker tone than that of the head. The iris was clear light brown; bill pale bluish grey with dark tip, cere and gape cream-colour, the former having a faint tinge of green; feet yellowish. Total length 27·5 inches, wing 21, tail 11·25, tarsus 4·25, from the end of the tibia to the end of the tarsus 9·75; the nostril a broad oval, placed obliquely as in the larger Spotted Eagle."

Mr. Brooks adds:—"In most of the immature birds procured in the buff plumage, the nostril is quite circular; I have, however, a buff bird almost changed to the adult tawny-red, which has the nostrils shaped as in the adult female above described. In this changing specimen a good many pale buff feathers remain, showing the connexion between the buff and the rufous stage, and many of the half-opened feathers show the darker plumage to be the new one. *Aquila fulvescens* is not a robust Eagle like *A. naevioides*, but is long-legged like *A. hastata*; it is a marsh-frequenting and migratory Eagle, coming to the plains of India only in the cold season; it is very rare, and its summer quarters are unknown."

I am also informed by Mr. Brooks that the male bird of the immature pair of *A. fulvescens* now in the possession of Mr. Hancock, and to which I have already referred, was shot by him in February 1868, and was then supposed to be a specimen of the larger Spotted Eagle in an undescribed state of plumage. Mr. Brooks also informs me that this is the specimen which was described at p. 168 of Mr. Hume's 'Scrap-book' as "*Aquila naevia*, no. 1," and the measurements of which are there given in detail on the preceding page. This description must therefore be taken as applying to the immature plumage of *A. fulvescens*, and the measurements as those

of the male of that species. These measurements (*e. g.* wing 19.25 inches, tarsus 4.06) are decidedly smaller than those of the female above described by Mr. Brooks, and show a considerable difference in size between the sexes of this Eagle.

The immature stage of *Aquila fulvescens* has, if I mistake not, been twice figured in the 'Journal für Ornithologie'—first in the volume for 1853, on plate 4, under the name of "*Aquila nævia*, var. *pallida*," and subsequently in the volume for 1874, on plate 3, under that of "*Aquila boeckii*;" the first-named of these representations, however, seems to me to approach more nearly than the second to the tone of colouring that prevails in the two immature specimens of *A. fulvescens* which I have examined. If I am correct in these identifications, it will follow that the western range of *A. fulvescens* sometimes extends to Europe, as the original of "*Aquila nævia*, var. *pallida*," was captured near Pillau, on the coast of Eastern Prussia, during very stormy weather in November 1851; and of the two specimens described under the name of *Aquila boeckii* one is said, on the authority of the late Jules Verreaux, to have been obtained in Russia, the locality of the other being unknown.

Respecting the three Eagles to which I have next to refer, so much has of late years been written that I shall have the less reason to dwell upon them at any great length. Their ordinary appellation of "Spotted Eagles" is very applicable to the immature plumage of all three; but with regard to their specific names considerable confusion has arisen. Mr. Sharpe applies to the larger and most widely spread species Pallas's name "*clanga*;" and of the two smaller races, he designates the Eastern as "*hastata*" of Lesson, and the Western as "*maculata*" of Gmelin, this last being the only name of the three which appears to me to be open to objection.

Mr. Sharpe abandons the specific name of "*nævia*," which by many ornithologists has been applied indiscriminately to both the Spotted Eagles found in Europe, and by others to the lesser species only, and, in so doing, follows the course suggested by Mr. Dresser in the 'Annals and

Magazine of Natural History' for 1874, p. 373, and there supported by reasons which appear to me to be quite satisfactory. I am not, however, so well satisfied with the view advocated by Mr. Dresser in the paper above referred to, and adopted by Mr. Sharpe, that the lesser Spotted Eagle of Europe should bear the specific name of "*maculata*." An able article on these three Eagles from the pen of Mr. Brooks will be found in vol. iv. p. 268 of 'Stray Feathers,' in which cause is shown for believing that the term "*maculata*" may have been intended to apply to the larger species; and I believe that Mr. Dresser now agrees with me that sufficient uncertainty exists on this point to render it incumbent on ornithologists to drop the term "*maculata*" in the same way that Mr. Sharpe has already very properly dropped that of "*nævia*."

I am indebted to the kind assistance of Mr. Dresser for enabling me to analyze the remaining synonyms quoted by Mr. Sharpe as referring to the lesser Spotted Eagle of Europe, and have arrived at the following result:—" *melanæetus* " of Savigny, and also "*bifasciata*" and "*fusca*" of Brehm, appear to appertain without doubt to the larger Spotted Eagle; "*nævia*, var. *pallida*," of Lichtenstein, I believe, as I have already mentioned, to be *A. fulvescens*; "*subnævia*" and "*fulviventris*" of Brehm are so imperfectly described that it is impossible to decide with any certainty to what species these two names were intended to apply. There remains but one other synonym to be accounted for, viz. "*pomarina*" of Brehm. This, I think, was probably founded on the European lesser Spotted Eagle; but if so, the description is inaccurate in one important particular, the nostril being described as "ear-shaped;" and this discrepancy must, I think, forbid the use of "*pomarina*" as a specific name for the lesser Spotted Eagle of Europe. Under these circumstances, I am of opinion that this species ought to bear the specific appellation of "*rufonuchalis*" proposed for it by Mr. Brooks in the paper above referred to; and I think that Mr. Brooks has done good service in providing a name that is liable to no doubt for this well-known species, which, by the laches of previous authors, had practically lapsed into an anonymous position.

Mr. Brooks's paper is also valuable as containing a clear statement of the differences which exist between the *A. rufonuchalis* and *A. hastata*.

Mr. Sharpe treats *A. clanga* and *A. hastata* as both being subspecies of *A. rufonuchalis* (his *A. maculata*) ; but as *A. clanga* has by far the widest geographical distribution of the three, I think it would be better to consider that Eagle as the leading species of the trio, and to allow *A. rufonuchalis* and *A. hastata* to occupy the position of subspecies.

The confusion which has so long existed between *A. clanga* and *A. rufonuchalis* renders it difficult to decide with certainty to which of these two species many of the existing records of Spotted Eagles in reality apply ; and consequently it is by no means easy to define the respective geographical areas over which the two species range ; but, independently of such ambiguous records, I believe that some definite and reliable information on this head may be added to that supplied in Mr. Sharpe's volume, and I will refer in the first instance to the geographical distribution of *A. clanga*, which is even more extended than the wide range recorded by Mr. Sharpe.

With regard to the eastern range of this species, the third volume of the 'Nouvelles Archives du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris' contains, at p. 29, a list of birds observed in Mongolia and Northern China by the Abbé Armand David, in which the following notes occur, of which perhaps both, but, I think, certainly the last, relate to this species :—

"No. 5." An Eagle not named in the text, but identified in a footnote as "*Aquila planga*, Pallas."

"No. 7. *Aquila nævia*, Br., de passage."

In 'Stray Feathers,' vol. iii. p. 25, "*Aquila clanga*, Pall.," is included in a list of the birds of Upper Pegu on the authority of a communication made to the editor by Captain Feilden.

There is also in the Norwich Museum an immature example of this species, which was formerly in the museum of the Zoological Society of London, where it was recorded as having been obtained in Sumatra by the late Sir Stamford Raffles.

With reference to the western range of *Aquila clanga*, I may mention that I recently had an opportunity of examining the two immature Spotted Eagles killed in Cornwall, and recorded in the 'Zoologist' for 1861, pp. 7311 and 7817, and found them both to be examples of this species.

It seems certain that the larger Spotted Eagle has occurred both in France and in Spain; and I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Howard Saunders for permission to quote the following remarks, from a letter with which he has favoured me, on this subject:—

"I was very much hurried during my visit to the Bayonne Museum; still I think I may state pretty positively that the two Spotted Eagles there, as also the one in the Bordeaux Museum, killed in the environs (all three young birds), are of the larger form, much larger than the small Pomeranian bird. . . . Speaking from memory, I should say that the spotted specimen in the Valencian (Eastern Spain) Museum is a very large female. As regards the Seville and Jerez specimens I am, after this lapse of time, barely sure of their existence. But of this I am sure; all those that I recollect seeing in South Europe were young, and, I fancy, all of the large form. I am sorry I did not take measurements."

The southern range of this Eagle is also somewhat more extended than has been recorded by Mr. Sharpe; it is a regular winter visitant to Egypt*, and it extends its migrations still further southward. Von Heuglin, in his 'Systematische Uebersicht,' p. 6, has a note, of which the following is a translation:—"*Aquila nævia*, Linn., is very common on the great lakes in Lower Egypt. In March and October it is travelling, often in companies of as many as ten individuals, throughout the whole of North-eastern Africa; the variety *A. clanga* (Pall. and Naum.) is as frequent as the genuine *A. nævia*"†.

Last year I saw an adult pair of *A. clanga* living in the Zoological Gardens at Antwerp, which I was assured had been brought from Sennaar, and which are the most southerly

* *Conf.* 'Rambles of a Naturalist,' by J. H. Gurney, jun., pp. 132 and 244.

† *Conf.* Von. Heuglin's 'Orn. Nordost-Afrika's,' vol. i. p. 47.

examples of this species that have come under my personal observation.

The geographical distribution of *A. rufonuchalis* is, as I have already observed, somewhat more limited than that of *A. clanga*; the most northerly locality for *A. rufonuchalis* with which I am acquainted is the neighbourhood of Dantzic. Like *A. clanga* it migrates southward in winter; and from Von Heuglin's remark, quoted above, it would appear to extend its migrations as far to the south as that species. The Norwich Museum possesses a specimen from Nubia and another from Beyrout, the former being the most southern and the latter the most eastern locality for this Eagle that I have personally verified; the most westerly specimen that I have seen is one from Switzerland, which is preserved in the Museum at Brussels.

A. rufonuchalis is a decidedly less numerous species than *A. clanga*, and has of late years become remarkably scarce, much more so than was formerly the case.

The nearly allied *A. hastata* appears, as stated by Mr. Sharpe, to be limited to the Indian peninsula.

The only remaining species of the genus *Aquila* is *A. wahlbergi*, respecting which I have merely to mention that Mr. Sharpe's remark, "*Hab.* The whole of Africa," appears to me to be too sweeping. The Norwich Museum possesses specimens from Bissao, the White Nile, Abyssinia, and Nubia, which are the only localities for this species with which I am acquainted to the north of the Equator; whilst to the south of the Line, I am not aware that it has been obtained except in the localities mentioned in Mr. Sharpe's edition of Mr. Layard's '*Birds of South Africa*,' at p. 36, viz. Caffraria, Kuruman, Mossamedes, and on the river Cunéné, and also in Damara Land, if, as I think most probable, it be an individual of this species, which is cited as from that country under the title of "*Aquila clanga*, Pallas, No. 23," in the Supplementary Catalogue of the Accipitres in the Leyden Museum, 15*.

* Since writing the above I have observed that the occurrence of a second Damara example of this Eagle is recorded in the '*Journal für Ornithologie*' for 1876, at p. 308.